

Natural Resource Year in Review—2002

Guidelines for Authors

Description

The *Natural Resource Year in Review* (www.nature.nps.gov/pubs/yir) summarizes science and natural resource management issues and activities in the National Park System for the calendar year. Published annually by the Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate, it features articles of immediate interest from around the National Park System and national natural resource program offices. These stories reflect the complexity of resource management in modern landscapes and present an honest appraisal of what the National Park Service is able to accomplish in the care of natural resources given current staffing and funding. Additionally, the report addresses the disconnect between the public's perception of natural resources in parks as pristine and the professional, human effort that actually goes into preserving those resources. Analytical in its approach, the report suggests where we are today, why this is, and where we need to go.

Audience

The public, Congress, and NPS partners such as researchers and technical assistance providers; also, staff of the National Park Service.

Design

Professional design confers a magazine-like appearance that includes full-color printing and the liberal use of photographs; the articles are brief and nontechnical. The result is a popular summary of natural resource activities and issues for the year.

Organization

The report is introduced by Mike Soukup, NPS Associate Director for Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, who comments on several of the year's issues and trends. Approximately 45 features and 40 brief articles follow in 7–8 chapters. Each chapter explores a resource stewardship theme and helps shape the overall story of our efforts to preserve park natural resources for the year. Your article should help reinforce a chapter's theme, as follows:

1. The Natural Resource Challenge

(The Challenge continues to improve the science and resource management capabilities of the National Park Service. Those programs directly supported by Challenge FY03 funding should describe their progress in this chapter. Other programs funded in earlier years of the Challenge should also provide updates on their progress.)

2. Science-based Management

(This section focuses on the NPS role in the scientific management of park natural resources, including the activities of the I&M Program and efforts to identify natural resource conditions. Emphasis should be on research and science processes applied to park management and some of the new scientific information being turned up by these efforts.)

3. National Parks as Laboratories

(Parks are valuable to society as places of scientific discovery. As we make discoveries the information we gather also aids in improving the care of park resources. Articles should emphasize the quest for resource knowledge in our national parks and its value to society and park management. New research endeavors fit well here.)

4. Marine and Coastal Resource Protection

(Coastal and marine resource protection was emphasized in the 2001 edition with the establishment of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve and may attract an adequate number of articles to continue it as a separate chapter.)

5. Managing Risks

(This section brings together stories that describe impacts and threats to park resources and human health in parks and explains the management actions undertaken by the National Park Service to combat the problems.)

6. Restoration

(This section explores ecological restoration of damaged park resources.)

7. Collaboration and Public Participation

(Caring for park natural resources is a complex and multifaceted undertaking that is best achieved with the help of cooperators and public participation. The Park Service is continually building important relationships with park neighbors, the public, and other natural resource management and research entities. These relationships improve our capabilities to manage park natural resources, involve the public in management decisions, and explain the rationale for various management decisions.)

8. Science Outreach

(Learning centers, traditional park interpretation, and specific audience-targeted interpretive programs are having success involving the public as stewards of the national parks and as partners in gathering scientific information for the management of park natural resources.)

9. A Look Ahead

(This section features an essay on future directions. Parks and program can contribute articles relating to issues and concerns in the near future.)

Your article

Your article should present a concise, objective, and analytical report of the issue, trend, or activity you wish to examine. The title and introductory paragraph should quickly identify the issue and how it relates to calendar year 2002 (i.e., what happened during the year?). Try to generate interest in your subject immediately. You may use, for example, a description of your dilemma or problem, a result that came from your efforts in 2002, a future condition anticipated as a result of 2002 work, a universal truth in natural resource management, a relevant quotation from a researcher or resource manager that shares insight, or perhaps a relevant statistic, rhetorical question, or description of something ironic in the situation. If your article reports FY 2002 GPRA results for natural resources, please mention this. Likewise, please explain any connection your issue or activity has to the Natural Resource Challenge. You may need to share a little background of the issue, but the article should largely focus on the events that took place this year and their meaning.

In the body of the article you may want to briefly mention how the problem came about and assess its complexity. Describe the approach taken to rectify it and mention who was involved. Discuss progress achieved or setbacks experienced and the current status of the situation. Concentrate on the events that took place this calendar year.

The conclusion should provide analysis and answer the question, "What is the significance of this issue, event, or trend for natural resource management in the NPS?" Eke out any connection to a national trend or larger meaning for the National Park Service.

Length

500–600 words. This equates to approximately 3/4 of a typed page using Courier New 10-point type; another measure is 3–5 paragraphs (any font) of 100–120 words each.

Grammar

Write primarily in the active voice. Refer to your park, project, or agency in the third person (i.e., the National Park Service, Everglades National Park, the park, park staff, resource managers, etc.).

Byline

A byline will accompany your article. Please provide your name, position title, employer, and e-mail address.

Data

If you share data, limit yourself to easily understandable materials that illustrate a central concept you want to communicate.

Illustrations

If possible, submit five or more sharp and attractive illustrations with captions, in a mix of horizontal and vertical formats for consideration by the editor. One or two will accompany most articles. Whether photographs, drawings, or charts, each illustration must be in the public domain, properly exposed, and feature a strong center of interest. If an illustration is not in the public domain, discuss with the editor the possibility of getting a signed release for use of the illustration from the copyright holder. The editor will track incoming illustrations and return them after the report is published.

Color slides, prints, and negatives

Send photographs or hard-copy illustrations by Federal Express (see address below).

Digital images

Digital images are acceptable if they are scanned in RGB (red, green, blue) at 300 pixels per inch resolution at a size of approximately 6x9 inches and saved as TIF files. JPG files are acceptable only if the digital photo was originally saved in this format at the highest image quality setting (i.e., 10–12). Digital image files are large, but can often be transmitted individually by e-mail (up to around 5MB total per e-mail). Individual images that are larger than 7MB should be transmitted on a CD-ROM or ZIP disk (send by FedEx), or by FTP (file transfer protocol).

FTP

FTP digital images over 7MB to `ftp:\\ftp.nps.gov\\incoming\\yir2002` and alert the editor to their presence.

Graphs, charts, maps

E-mail charts and graphs in their native application formats (e.g., Excel) along with the data used to create the illustration. For GIS-generated maps, contact the editor.

Article Review

Please submit a copy of your draft article to the appropriate manager (i.e., park superintendent, associate regional director for natural resources, or national program office chief) for his or her consideration. Please address any comments in the final draft that you submit to the editor.

Deadline

Final articles and illustrations are due to the editor by October 15, 2002.

Delivery

E-mail

Forward manuscript and digital images by e-mail to jeff_selleck@nps.gov.

Fed Ex

Charge the shipment to account # 1425-6031-3; send photos, CD-ROMs, and ZIP disks overnight or second-day to:

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Contacting the Editor

If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the editor for guidance.

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